



Red Cross and Red Crescent
Making a Difference at the
Asian Ministerial Conference
on Disaster Risk Reduction

2016

Namaste !

Thanks so much for your positive contributions to and participation in this year's Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR). For those of you present at the Conference, I am sure you will all agree that the Red Cross Red Crescent voice and profile during this year's AMCDRR was strong and helped to ensure attention and investment in local actors and communities.

Preparations for this year's AMCDRR began early in 2016 with IFRC guidance notes and suggested government engagement strategies prepared by the Regional Office. These initiatives culminated in the Asia Pacific Red Cross Red Crescent DRM Conference, held in Seoul in September, where National Societies discussed and inputted into the Action Statement that was tabled at the Asian Ministerial Conference.

While it is always difficult to pinpoint the "tangibles" from these large regional meetings, it was evident that we are making progress in Asia to make the shift from disaster management to disaster risk management both in terms of governance and practice. It was also clear that disaster risk reduction cannot be looked at in isolation and there is growing recognition that there must be greater coherence with development and climate change approaches.

While there was growing rhetoric on the value and role of communities and local level action and investment, it was clear much more concerted action is needed to ensure words translate into action. This also rings true for gender and diversity considerations, evident that there needs to be serious investment in women's leadership and involvement in Disaster Risk Reduction.

One of the greatest strengths of our Movement is the important role we play to ensure that there is connection between communities and decision makers and the role you played alongside your governments during the Conference was testament to this.

It was great to see National Society leadership from 13 Societies across the region and our dynamic youth leaders shape policy direction in Asia. The task before you now is to work with your authorities and other national stakeholders to implement the Asia Regional Plan and of course our own Action Statement.

From 2017, we will organize a series of webinars and develop tools to support your efforts to engage with stakeholders in your countries to ensure that these regional commitments come to life and have impact at the local level. Watch this space !

Finally, thanks to Dr. Veer Bhushan and the wonderful team at Indian Red Cross Society as well the Delhi CCST for the great hospitality and friendship shown in New Delhi.

We look forward to our continued collaboration, action and influence in the lead up to the next AMCDRR that will be hosted by Mongolia in 2018 !

Martin Faller

Deputy Regional Director, Asia Pacific

What were the key outcomes of the AMCDRR?

There were three main outcomes of this year's AMCDRR.

The Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework

The Regional Plan was endorsed to guide the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the context of the 2030 sustainable development agendas across Asia. Not only does it provide **broad policy direction**, it also provides a **long term road map**, spanning the 15-year horizon of the Sendai Framework to set out vision to achieve the seven targets. The plan also contains a more detailed **two-year action plan** with specific activities that are prioritized based on the long term road map and in line with the policy direction. Through the ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP), IFRC was active in its involvement into the draft plan, and a number of suggestions we made on the plan were incorporated in the final document.

It is important for your National Society to read through the plan as it signals commitments for action by your government and other key stakeholders. Take the time to analyse what area your society can contribute to and show impact against. Specifically look at the two year action plan and use this as a basis to discuss your contribution and areas of "value add" within your society and other key stakeholders in your country, including your government.

There will be no separate monitoring system or mechanism specifically for the Asia Regional Plan. The periodic review of the Asia Regional Plan by governments and partners will take place through the annual meetings of the IAP forum, in which the IFRC Secretariat participates as one of the 11 Stakeholder Groups.

The New Delhi Declaration (Political | Declaration of the AMCDRR)

The Political Declaration consolidates the political commitment of governments towards preventing and reducing risk as well as strengthening resilience by accelerating implementation and monitoring of the Sendai Framework in the region. The New Delhi declaration emphasises people centred and whole of society approaches to risk management, as well as makes a 13 point call to action which include greater investment in communities, people centred approaches, stronger laws and policies and more participatory and inclusive approaches, among others.

This will also be an important document for your Society to refer when advocating and discussing with your government and political leaders on why they need to step up investment in risk reduction and strengthen resilience, particularly at the local level.

Stakeholder Action Statements, including the IFRC Action Statement

These are voluntary statements of action of the 11 stakeholder groups towards a 'shared responsibility' approach in implementation of the Sendai Framework.

The IFRC Action Statement sets out the collective commitments and actions that Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies across Asia will deliver according to the priority areas of the Sendai Framework. The core elements of this Action Statement were developed and agreed upon in the RCRC Asia Pacific Disaster Management Conference held in Seoul in September 2016. Commitments include providing **greater support to local** humanitarian and development actors, addressing issues around social inclusion and diversity in disaster risk reduction, establishing **stronger laws** and frameworks that reduce vulnerability to disasters and **elevating the role of young people** as agents of behavioural change in their communities. The Action Statement also make a further call to Action to governments and other stakeholders in the region for areas that were not well addressed or missing from the regional plan. The full IFRC Action Statement is available at the end of this report.

IFRC also contributed to other Stakeholder Action Statements and will be working with partners across the region to bring these commitments to fruition. Most notably, refer to the **Gender and Women Action Statement**, which included specific actions to support the commitment to strengthen meaningful participation of women in DRR under five areas; (i) Sensitisation, awareness raising and capacity building; (ii) Developing guidance, formats and tools; (iii) Status mapping and setting baselines for gender monitoring; (iv) Information and knowledge sharing; (v) Increasing women's participation and leadership as well as representation of gender issues. The **Youth Action Statement** also details key commitment and calls to action to strengthen youth participation and leadership in DRR across Asia.

In addition, IFRC worked together with partners in the Asia Pacific Coalition on School Safety (APCSS) to develop a comprehensive [policy brief](#).

What did your country say and commit to at the AMCDRR?

You can watch the recordings of all the sessions of the AMCDRR [here](#). It is worth taking a look at your country's Statement during the Ministerial Sessions. In these statements, your government sets out their priorities and commitments to realize the DRR and sustainable development agenda in your country. You can take a look at the country statements in the various Ministerial Sessions:

Ministerial Session Two includes statements from Lao PDR, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Nepal, Iran, Thailand, Philippines, China, Republic of Korea as well as ASEAN.

Ministerial Session Three includes statements from Maldives, Vietnam, Australia, Kiribati, New Zealand, Tuvalu, Malaysia, Pakistan, ECO, UNFPA and also IFRC Statement delivered by Indian Red Cross Society (refer statement near the end of the recording).

Please note that the Statements from Ministerial Session One have not yet been uploaded to the website.

The **Government of India**, as host country, delivered its statement as part of the Inaugural Ceremony with Prime Minister Modi laying out a forward looking and ambitious 10-point agenda for renewing efforts for disaster risk reduction. You can view the full speech [here](#). The 10 point agenda included the following:

All public expenditure on development projects should take into account risk considerations.

Risk coverage and insurance for all, from poor households to small/medium enterprises to multinationals to nation states.

Risk mapping globally for chemical hazards, forest fires, cyclones and floods;

Leveraging technology to enhance efficiency of disaster risk management efforts;

Greater involvement of women leaders in managing disasters;

Working with universities and communities;

Developing social media applications for all aspects of disaster risk management;

Studying past disasters to “build back better”;

Greater cohesion in international response to disasters.

What was the Red Cross and Red Crescent Contribution During the AMCDRR?

1. Representing in Thematic Events and Technical Sessions

Red Cross and Red Crescent were well profiled and positioned across the Conference. Members of the Delegation were selected as subject matter experts on a range of issues in Technical and Thematic Sessions during the Conference. This included:

Technical Session #4: Preparedness for Response and Recovery

Mongolia Red Cross Secretary General, Madam Bolormaa, spoke about the critical role of local preparedness and action in disaster risk management in Mongolia, highlighting the initiatives undertaken by Mongolia Red Cross to strengthen preparedness and resilience at the local level.

Technical Session #6: Coherence of the 2030 Global Agenda

IFRC was represented in the panel by Donna Mitzi Lagdameo, Technical Adviser and Asia Pacific Focal Point of the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre. She highlighted various approaches on how the RCRC family is already contributing to a coherent application of the 2030 global agenda by using a resilience building approach. These are through linking science, policy and practice; Early Warning Early Action across different timescales; participatory, community-based and inclusive approaches; and by integrating risk reduction and climate change approaches in existing programs.

Donna identified five concrete ways to ensure that coherence is achieved at the local level. They included the (a) adoption of an Integrated Risk Management approach that bridges time and spatial scales; (b) strengthening of livelihoods and provision of a wider range of risk-informed climate-smart and ecosystem-based solutions; (c) recognition of different capacities, needs and vulnerabilities of community groups and individuals and enabling their full participation in decision-making; (d) mainstreaming of DRR and climate change into development policies and investments; and (e) timely, open access early warning information on disaster risks that enable us to act based on forecast.



Governments in the Technical Sessions

There were also a number of governments who highlighted the critical role of Red Cross and Red Crescent at community level and also in law and policy making. The Governments of Nepal, Mongolia, Bangladesh and Timor Leste spoke of their important partnerships with National Societies to strengthen resilience and local level action, as well as the support provided by RCRC to strengthen disaster laws in their countries.

Thematic Session #5: Education including Comprehensive School Safety

The Malaysian Red Crescent youth representative was nominated by his peers to represent the youth stakeholder group on the comprehensive school safety panel discussion of this side event alongside Ministry of Education and DM authority representatives to ensure that School Safety reflects the role of Children and Youth.

Thematic Session #6: Community Resilience

Ms Yoonkyung Kim, Deputy Head, International Relations – spoke on Korea Red Cross’ initiatives on the One Billion Coalition for Resilience and partnering for resilience. She shared various initiatives of the Korea Red Cross like the Windmill of Hope and their strong partnership with private sector groups like Samsung. Ms Kim talked about the multi-C era in strengthening community resilience. This era underscores the importance of having new Commitments to partnership through digital engagement; Coalition building; and Collective impact and advocacy.

This thematic event was co-led by IFRC, UNDP and ADB. The panel discussion showed that building resilient communities is not new. Red Cross has been doing this for a long time and solutions and innovative approaches are already happening and in-place but this needs to be scaled up by new and dynamic partnerships and coalitions.





Thematic Session #11: Making World Heritage Risk Resilient

Head of Delegation, Mr Jeremy England, spoke on the panel discussion on “Making World Heritage Risk Resilient” and explored complex emergencies and threats to heritage sites.

Thematic Session #18: Application of Science in DRR

Ms Roop Singh from the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre was part of the panel and she presented some key learnings

and inputs from various projects that the Climate Centre is part of. The Partners for Resilience (PfR) global alliance which includes the Netherlands Red Cross, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, CORDAID, CARE and Wetlands International, also took part in a number of side events and contributed various experiences from their programmes in Asia (India, Indonesia and the Philippines).

Thematic Session #19: Gender Sensitive DRR

The Gender Thematic Session aimed to unpack the concept of gender inclusion and women’s leadership in DRR, to share experiences from within the region and from different actors as well as look forward to ensuring gender sensitivity throughout the implementation of the Asia Regional Plan. The session heard from government representatives including Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Tajikistan, Bangladesh and Japan who all highlighted strong progress in areas of gender and diversity within DRR. They also discussed challenges and areas that they would strive to focus on going forward.

UN Women, Christian Aid and IFRC focused on the different available approaches and tools to support gender sensitive implementation of Sendai. The IFRC’s presentation was delivered by Christina Haneef (Gender and Diversity Advisor) and highlighted the [Minimum Standard Commitments to gender and diversity in emergency programming \(pilot 2015\)](#), the [IFRC Checklist on law and disaster risk reduction \(2015\)](#) and the IASC gender based violence guidelines.

During the presentation, examples of how these are being used to support gender and diversity integration within DRR were given, as well as highlighting key resource persons in the region that stakeholders can draw on.



World Disaster Report Launch

During a post Conference Event the World Disaster Report 2016 was officially launched in India by the State Minister of Home Affairs for India as well as high level panel, comprised of leadership from India Red Cross Society, IFRC and the National Disaster Management Authority of India.

2. Profile at the Conference in the Exhibition Centre



IFRC and Indian Red Cross Society both had information booths set up at the Market Place, which attracted a good number of participants. The World Disaster Report 2016 proved to be a highly sought after publication, with demand outstripping supply at certain points during the Conference !

3. Media and Communications

Media and communications were used strategically in the lead up to and during the Conference, which included:

- An [Op-ed](#) published online at Hindustan Times highlighting the importance of holistic and inclusive, well implemented disaster risk management laws
- A Press release issued on Nov 4: '[At AMCDRR 2016](#), Red Cross Red Crescent calls for greater investment in local actors and new partnerships to reduce disaster risk and increase community resilience'
- Regular Twitter updates fed through @IFRCAsiaPacific
- Web story for IFRC.org, [summarising RCRC participation and outcomes of AMCDRR](#)



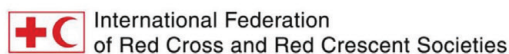
Looking Forward to AMCDRR 2018 in Mongolia

The next Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR will be hosted by Mongolia in 2018. In the lead up to this Conference, please continue to work alongside, and where necessary advocate, with your governments to ensure that commitments made in the Asia Regional Plan are realised. It will be important for your National Society to identify where such commitments can be integrated into your existing programming or where extra efforts may be needed.

It is important to note that the Global DRR Platform will be taking place in Cancun, Mexico in May 2017. This will be another key milestone to engage with your authorities and other stakeholders in your country to reflect and build on these regional undertakings. More information about this global event will be shared with National Societies soon.

The IFRC Secretariat team is here to support you along the way and is available for technical advice and guidance should it be required. We will also be hosting a number of webinars in 2017, as well as developing tools and communications to support your implementation plans.

The IFRC Action Statement



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Stakeholder Action Statement

Asia Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction

2-5 November 2016

New Delhi, India

Resilience can and must be built at all levels, from the individual to the community, from the locality to the nation. For the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), representing twenty-two National Societies in Asia, our greatest strength is working with and for communities to strengthen their resilience even further in the face of more frequent and complex disasters and crises.

Through our volunteer and youth networks, we are part of our communities, able to address needs over time of all women, men, boys, girls and at-risk groups. Our strength is also derived from our auxiliary role to Governments, as well as in the resources, expertise and solidarity found in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement;

Fulfilling the Sendai Framework Principle of “all of society engagement” in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), we are committed to continued action on DRR in Asia through the ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP) platform and the Asia Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) as a self-organized stakeholder group;

Building on prior commitments we have made to the fulfillment of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals, Paris Climate Agreement and World Humanitarian Summit:

We hereby commit to the following actions in support of the Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework and in line with the global and regional strategic directions of the IFRC, including the IFRC Asia Disaster Risk Management Strategy 2016 -2020, the IFRC Gender and Diversity Strategic Framework 2013-2020 and the IFRC Youth Engagement Strategy:

1. Increase our investment in local action and local actors ahead of disasters and crises, to build resilience and anticipate shocks which will help protect the lives, livelihoods and dignity of the world's most vulnerable people. This is in line with the “Grand Bargain” of the World Humanitarian Summit, which championed the allocation of 25 per cent of global humanitarian funding to local and national responders by 2020;
2. Build stronger, more resilient communities by saving lives today, protecting livelihoods tomorrow and providing economic and social stability in the years to come;
3. Work along a continuum of preparedness through early warning, early alert, followed by early action to better respond, facilitate recovery and build resilience, so we can truly bridge humanitarian, development and climate agendas;
4. Through the One Billion Coalition for Resilience, bring together partners from all sectors, from local to global, to motivate, inform, mobilize and support communities to take action, to be safer and better able to withstand shocks as well as support a stronger and more diverse humanitarian ecosystem;



5. Support the development of an enabling environment where good governance is exercised through application and respect for disaster laws which ensure participation and empowerment of local communities;
6. Identify potential and actual issues of gender and diversity based discrimination, as well as opportunities to promote equality and act upon these through all the full program cycle and across the whole disaster risk management spectrum;
7. Ensure youth engagement by investing in youth leadership on disaster risk reduction and foster an enabling environment to facilitate youth-led initiatives to build resilient communities;
8. Support National Societies to work closely with their governments to strengthen national and local DRR platforms, as well as in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Action on Disaster Risk Reduction, in coordination with other relevant frameworks.

Specifically, in the next two years (2017-2018), we commit to undertake the following actions and report back at the 2018 AMCDRR:

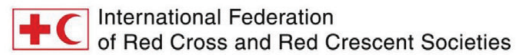
Regional Level Actions

- Contribute to strengthening Regional Platforms for DRR, including the Asian Ministerial Conference, the ISDR Asia Partnership and its Secretariat through enhanced engagement of our National Societies, youth, volunteers and partners to support the implementation and monitoring of the Sendai Framework.
- Promote and support gender and diversity-sensitive and climate-smart DRR actions, including prevention and response to gender based violence, at national and local level through regional policies of intergovernmental organizations.
- Strengthen the connection of our National Societies with inter-governmental organizations and cooperation among them for coherence of regional, sub-regional and national laws and strategies; information and knowledge exchange on specific DRR and response aspects; and concerted support to national actions.
- Enhance the capacity of national and regional Red Cross Red Crescent Youth Networks to foster information and knowledge sharing on Youth-led initiatives for DRR, in order to capitalize innovative solutions.

National and Local Level Actions

Priority Area 1: Understanding Disaster Risk

- Assess disaster risk, vulnerability, capacity, exposure, hazard characteristics and their possible effects across different time and geographical scales;
- Build the knowledge and capacity of one million local government officials, civil society, communities and volunteers including women, youth, girls and boys to monitor hazards, exposure, risk and capacities; collect and analyze sex, age and disability-disaggregated data and inform all risk assessments through gender and diversity analysis to monitor social vulnerabilities.



Priority Area 2: Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance to Manage Disaster Risk

- Support the revision of existing national and local Disaster Risk Management laws, strategies and plans, including through ensuring meaningful community engagement and the leadership of women and minority groups, in line with the Sendai Framework, the Paris Climate Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals to ensure disaster risk sensitive development in 8 Asian Countries.
- Enable a supportive policy environment to establish and strengthen multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral national and local platforms with the participation and leadership of local community representatives which include women, youth and minority groups and other stakeholders.
- Support local authorities in the development and dissemination of guidelines and their coherent implementation of the 2030 development agendas at local level involving the national authority that are responsible for local administration in 8 countries in Asia.

Priority Area 3: Investing in Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience

- Institutionalize Community-based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) to strengthen resilience of women, men, girls, boys and at risk groups in at least 5 countries in Asia,
- Develop and test mechanisms and a youth-friendly toolkit to formalize volunteer and youth roles in DRR programs as well as in comprehensive school safety programs by 2018

Priority Area 4: Enhancing Disaster Preparedness for Effective Response and to “Build Back Better” in Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction

- Provide capacity building for local authorities, community members and volunteers to develop gender-sensitive and climate-smart disaster preparedness plan including early warning systems, response coordination, evacuation plans, stockpiling of necessary materials to implement rescue, relief and recovery activities.
- Strengthen resilience of critical infrastructure including facilities for disaster preparedness such as schools and emergency shelters.
- Promote the safety and security of women, girl and boys in disasters, ensuring gender based violence risks are understood and measures taken, based on IFRC standards, to prevent, mitigate and respond to gender-based violence in preparedness and recovery programmes.
- Train 400 key volunteers and Youth leaders as Agents of Behavioral change (YABC) and equip with skills to reduce risk in its own communities, and further facilitate the pool of existing 1400 YABC peer educators to take active part in developing youth-led initiatives in its own communities with its peers to build a safe and resilient community by 2018.



To support stakeholders to deliver on our commitments, we further call on Governments and other partners to:

1. Increase investment in local actors and responders in Asia to ensure people centered approaches;
2. Convene and participate in coalitions from the corporate sector, academia, civil society and governments at local, national and international levels to share common ambitions, risks, accountability and successes in building resilience and contributing to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;
3. Strengthen gender and diversity and socially inclusive approaches under the principle of leaving no one behind and ensure an all of society approach which engages and empowers women and minority groups in disaster risk reduction processes;
4. Review and strengthen sub regional, national and local climate-resilient development, through stronger and more coherent governance frameworks (laws and policies) for integrated and inclusive disaster risk management;
5. Further strengthen formal and non-formal education for youth to take an active part in School Safety and disaster risk reduction activities in their own communities, which recognizes their key role as agents of behavioral change. Further provide opportunities to engage youth at all levels of design, discussion and decision making to build resilient communities;
6. Find innovate ways to change the way we work to better anticipate and prepare for early action, including through forecast-based financing;
7. Explore ways for the humanitarian and development systems to respond predictably and effectively to protect the most vulnerable when shocks hit, including through social protection and safety nets;
8. Prioritize work to improve the resilience of urban communities, including institutional and legal preparedness.

